GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:189
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2003
CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MALNUTRITION
LAXMAN GILUWA;MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated National Action Plan to protect women and children suffering from malnutrition and health problems in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to address the problem of malnutrition by the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the percentage of women and children suffering from malnutrition in each State and factors responsible for the same;

(e) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF REPLY TO PART (a),(b),(c),(d),(e) & (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 189 FOR 4.3.2003 REGARDING CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MALNUTRITION BY SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA AND DR. M.P. JAISWAL

(a),(b),(c),(d),(e)&(f) The Government adopted the National Nutrition Policy in 1993 for alleviating the multi-faceted problem of malnutrition. The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature, attributable to, inter alia, lack of adequate nutrition, food security, sanitation & safe drinking water, health & family welfare and poverty alleviation. A National Plan of Action on Nutrition was formulated in 1995 to provide guidelines for introducing nutritional components in policies and programmes having a bearing on nutrition.

The steps taken to address the problem of malnutrition, inter alia, include:

- Continued implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, the world's largest community-based intervention for holistic development of children in 0-6 years age group and pregnant & lactating mothers;

- Nutrition Component of Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), to improve the nutritional status of children in 0-3 years age group;

- Pilot project in 51 districts, to provide free foodgrains to undernourished adolescent girls and pregnant & lactating mothers;

- Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme;

- National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme;

- National Prophylaxis Programme against Blindness due to Vitamin-A;

- National Nutritional Anaemia Control Programme;

- National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education;

- Targeted Public Distribution System; Poverty Alleviation Programmes; and

- Nutrition Education Programmes of Food & Nutrition Board.

Various surveys have been conducted, which, inter alia, include the National Family Health Surveys (NFHS)-1 (1992- 93) and 2 (1998-

99). State-wise prevalence of malnutrition, as reflected by Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED) in women and underweightn children (0-3 years), as per NFHS-2, is annexed.

ANNEXURE

State-wise percentage of women and children suffering from malnutrition as per NFHS-2 (1998-99)

Sl. No.	State	Women# (CED)	Underweight Children (0-3 years of age)	
		Moderate& Severe	Severe	
	India	35.8	47.0	18.0
1.	Delhi	12.0	34.7	10.1
2.	Haryana	25.9	34.6	10.1
3.	Himachal Pr.	29.7	43.6	12.1
4.	J & K	26.4	34.5	8.3
5.	Punjab	16.9	28.7	8.8
6.	Rajasthan	36.1	50.6	20.8
7	Madhya Pradesh	38.2	55.1	24.3
8.	Uttar Pradesh	35.8	51.7	21.9
9.	Bihar	39.3	54.4	25.5
10.	Orissa	48.0	54.4	20.7
11.	West Bengal	43.7	48.7	16.3
12.	Arunachal Pr.	10.7	24.3	7.8
13.	Assam	27.1	36.0	13.3
14.	Manipur	18.8	27.5	5.3
15.	Meghalaya	25.8	37.9	11.3
16.	Mizoram	22.6	27.7	5.0
17.	Nagaland	18.4	24.1	7.4
18.	Sikkim	11.2	20.6	4.2
19.	Goa	27.1	28.6	4.7
20.	Gujarat	37.0	45.1	16.2
21.	Maharashtra	39.7	49.6	17.6
22.	Andhra Pradesh	37.4	37.7	10.3
23.	Karnataka	38.8	43.9	16.5
24.	Kerala	18.7	26.9	4.7
25.	Tamil Nadu	29.0	36.7	10.6

Excludes women who were pregnant and women with a birth in the preceding two months.

• Chronic Energy Deficiency (CED):CED is usually indicated by a Body Mass Index (BMI) of less than 18.5 . The BMI is defined as weight in Kilograms divided by the height in metres squared (Kg/m2).

• Moderate & Severe: Children who are more than two standard deviation below the reference median on any of indices are considered to be undernourished.

• Severe: Children who fall more than three standard deviation below the reference median are considered to be severely undernourished.